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(71) Applicant

Roy Simpson,

9 Stansfield Street, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 2NR

(72) Inventors

Roy Simpson,

Phyllis Logan

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

Barlow Gillett & Percival, 94 Market Street,
Manchester M1 1PJ

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(58) Field of search

A5R

Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class A61N

(54) Therapeutic aid

(57) A therapeutic aid in the form of a bandage, a sleeping requisite such as pillow 10 for support of a user's head or an article of clothing such as a glove and comprising means for creating a permanent magnetic field. A pillow has a plurality of spaced-apart parallel permanent magnets 14 sandwiched between foam blocks (11) 12 which induce or would appear to induce sleep and/or suppresses respiratory ailments such as asthma. A bandage (figs 3, 4) is attachable around injured parts of the user's body, such as joints, so that the magnetic field brings relief of the injury. The magnets are pliable strips eg. of plastics or rubber bound barium ferrite.

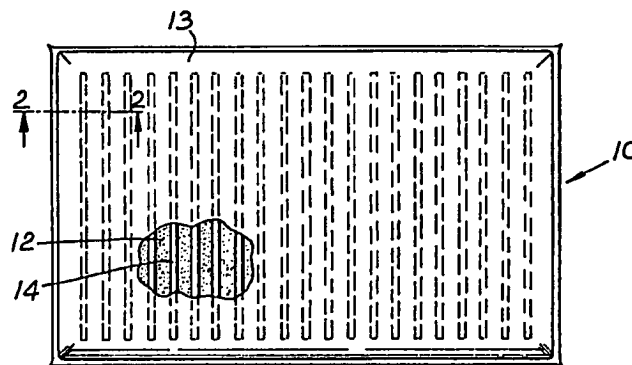


Fig. 1

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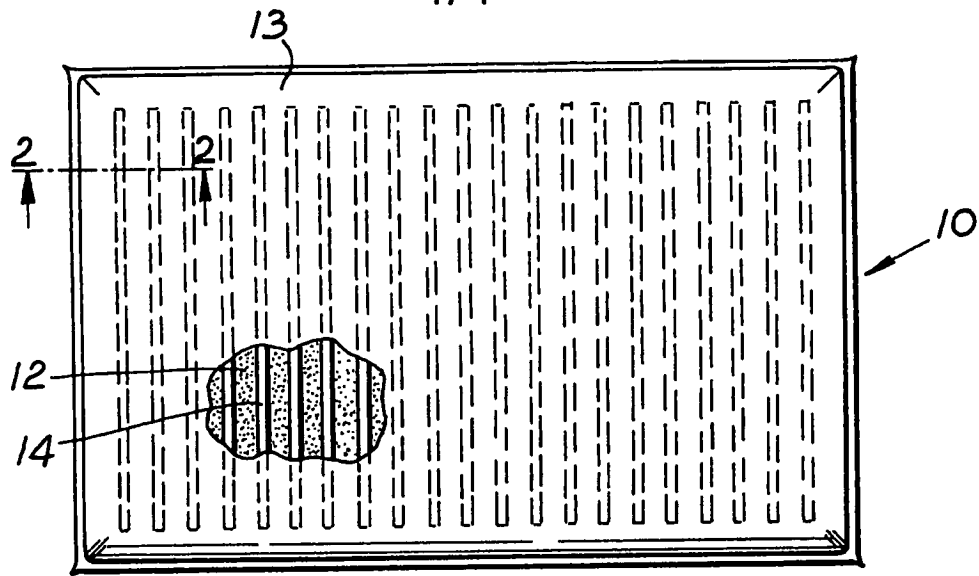


Fig. 1

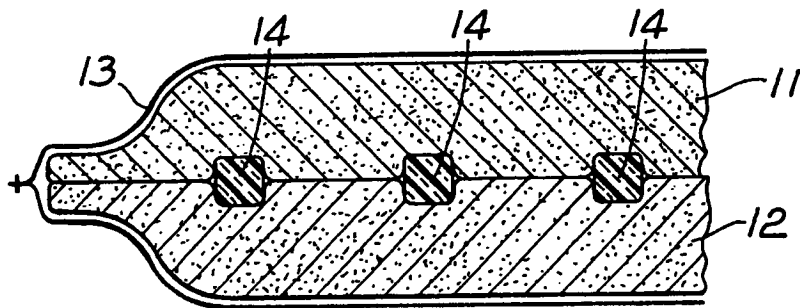


Fig. 2

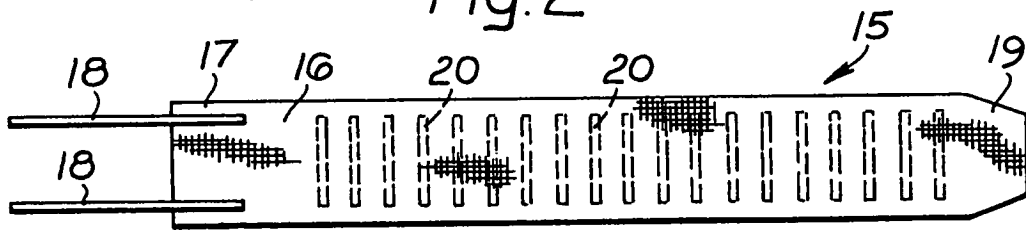


Fig. 3

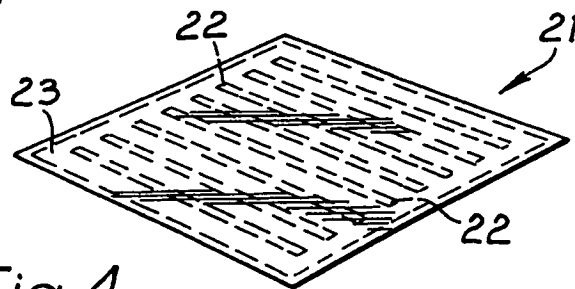


Fig. 4

SPECIFICATION

Therapeutic aid

5 This invention concerns a therapeutic aid.

The therapeutic aid of the present invention may be in the form of a bandage of the kind which serves to apply pressure to or for the immobilisation of an injured part of the human body, particularly injured joints such as the knee joint or the elbow joint.

Alternatively, it may be in the form of a sleeping requisite of the kind which serves to support a user's head, or back, or other part of the body, or which includes a portion which serves to support as aforesaid, thereof being in the nature of a pillow, bolster, cushion, head rest, back rest or mattress.

Yet still said therapeutic aid may be in the form of a glove or other hand held article for wearing or for use for cleaning, dusting or polishing as the case may be.

Whatever the particular form of the therapeutic aid, the invention has as an object to provide a therapeutic aid which possesses or would appear to possess improved therapeutic properties in that as a bandage it promotes rapid healing of injury, or as a glove or hand held article it promotes relief of minor injuries and rheumatism in the hands, or as a sleeping requisite it induces sleep and/or suppresses respiratory ailments such as asthma and/or promotes rapid healing of injury.

With this object in view the present invention provides a therapeutic aid in any of the forms as aforesaid characterised in that said aid incorporates or embodies means for creating a static magnetic field.

Advantageously, the means creating a static magnetic field comprises magnets of various forms. For example, the means may comprise a plurality of permanent magnets in bar, rod, disc or other form disposed at random or in a predetermined pattern within the body of the aid.

Preferably said means comprises a plurality of permanent magnets each in the form of a pliable strip e.g. composed of plastic-bound or rubber-bound barium ferrite. These strips may then be arranged side-by-side so as to be approximately parallel to one another. In the case where such strips each have one pole to one face of the strip and the other pole to the other face, they are preferably arranged with the poles alternating, that is to say with the upwardly-facing poles of adjacent magnets differing and similarly the downwardly-facing poles of adjacent magnets differing.

The invention will be described further, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a plan view of a first preferred embodiment of the therapeutic aid of the present invention;

Figure 2 is cross-sectional view on the line 2-2 of *Figure 1*;

Figure 3 is a plan view of a second preferred embodiment of the therapeutic aid of the present

invention; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a third preferred embodiment of the therapeutic aid of the present invention.

70 Referring firstly to *Figures 1* and *2*, the first preferred embodiment of the therapeutic aid is illustrated therein as being in the form of a sleeping requisite, being more particularly a pillow 10.

The pillow 10 comprises as its filling two square or rectangular blocks 11 and 12 of airated foam, typically each of the dimensions 46cm x 30cm x 2 cm. The foam blocks 11, 12 sandwich between them permanent magnets in the form of flexible square cross-section, elongate bars 14 composed of plastic-bound or rubber-bound barium ferrite.

80 The bars 14 are arranged side-by-side and spaced-apart at regular intervals along the length of the pillow 10, so that said strips are substantially parallel. Each bar 14 has one pole to one face and the other pole to the other face so that the poles alternate, that is to say with the upwardly-facing poles of adjacent bar magnets differing and the downwardly facing poles differing.

The foam blocks 11, 12 are attached together by means of adhesive on part or all of their mutually confronting surfaces, with the bars 14 being depressed into the blocks 11, 12 upon attachment of the blocks 11, 12. The blocks 11, 12 are encased by a covering of, for example, cotton such as calico.

95 The rods 14 provide a uniform magnetic field around the pillow 10 so that the pillow 10 possesses or would appear to possess improved therapeutic properties in that it induces sleep and/or suppresses respiratory ailments such as asthma.

100 Referring now to *Figure 3*, the second preferred embodiment of the therapeutic aid is in the form of a bandage 15 of the kind which serves to apply pressure to or for immobilisation of an injured part of the human body, particularly injured joints.

105 The bandage 15 is of substantially the same construction as the pillow 10 as afore-described, but, of course, its dimensions are suitably different. The bandage 15 is elongate, being dimensionally of much greater length than width. Its thickness is much less than the thickness of the pillow 10.

110 The bandage's cover 16, encasing its foam blocks (not shown), is made of a suitably absorbent material, e.g. a towelling material. The ends of the bandage 15 are provided with fastening means in that one end 17 has two strips 18 of velcro material attachable to the other end 19 of the bandage 15.

120 The foam blocks of the bandage 15 sandwich between them the permanent magnets which in this embodiment are pliable strips 20, shown in outline in *Figure 3*. The strips 20 are again composed of plastics-bound or rubber-bound barium ferrite.

The strips 20 within the bandage 15 create a magnetic field therearound which gives or appears to give the bandage 15 therapeutic properties which promotes rapid healing of the injury.

In use, the bandage 15 can be wrapped around the wrist, the elbow joint, the knee joint, the shoulder joint or the neck.

130 Referring lastly to *Figure 4*, the third preferred

embodiment of the therapeutic aid illustrated therein is in the form of a hand-held cleaning article or duster 21 for cleaning, polishing or dusting.

The duster 21 incorporates some of the features of the embodiments of Figures 1 and 2, and Figure 3.

The duster 21 is substantial square in shape and comprises a sandwich of two ariated foam blocks (not shown) and, between the blocks, permanent magnets in the form of elongate pliable strips 22 (shown in outline). The duster 21 has an outer cover 23 of hard wearing material.

The overall thickness of the duster 21 is such as to make it flexible enough for good cleaning and polishing of articles.

As it is intended that the duster 21 should be held in the hand, because of the presence of the pliable magnet strips 22 (arranged side-by-side) there is promoted, or would appear to be promoted, the relief of minor injuries and/or rheumatism in the hand.

CLAIMS

1. A therapeutic aid in any of the forms as aforesaid characterised in that said aid incorporates or embodies means for creating a static magnetic field.

2. An aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for creating a static magnetic field comprises magnets of various forms.

3. An aid as claimed in claims 1 and 2, wherein the means comprises a plurality of permanent magnets in bar, rod, disc or other form disposed at random or in a predetermined pattern within the body of the aid.

4. An aid as claimed in claims 1 and 2, wherein the means comprises a plurality of permanent magnets each in the form of a pliable strip.

5. An aid as claimed in any of claim 4 wherein the strips are arranged side-by-side so as to be approximately parallel to one another.

6. An aid as claimed in claim 5 wherein the strips are arranged with their poles alternating, that is to say with the upwardly-facing poles of adjacent magnets differing and similarly with the downwardly-facing poles of adjacent magnets differing.

7. An aid as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said aid also comprises as its filling two square or rectangular blocks of ariated foam sandwiching between them the permanent magnets.

8. An aid as claimed in claim 7 wherein the blocks of foam are attached together by means of adhesive on part or all of their mutually confronting surfaces, with the magnets being depressed into the blocks upon attachment of the blocks.

9. An aid as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the magnets are composed of plastics-bound or rubber-bound barium ferrite.

10. A therapeutic aid substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, or in Figure 3, or in Figure 4, of the accompanying drawings.

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